

House Resolution No. 2631

Whereas, the members of the Missouri House of Representatives hold in high esteem those Show-Me State businesses that admirably broaden and deepen the economic foundations of local communities and neighborhoods; and

Whereas, Citizens Telephone Company of Lafayette County, Missouri, was incorporated on May 11, 1908, in Higginsville by railroad engineer W.R. Journey with 120 stockholders holding 400 shares valued at \$25 each; and

Whereas, Citizens Telephone Company began service on September 1, 1908, with a two-position switchboard and ninety-nine subscribers to begin a century-long commitment to local ownership and operation; and

Whereas, the Journey family eventually gained majority ownership of the company, and W.R. Journey served as general manager from 1908 until 1943, daughter Elizabeth Journey served as manager and vice president beginning in 1943 and as president of the company from 1955 to 1983, and her sister, Kathryn, served as assistant manager and secretary/treasurer; and

Whereas, Howard Fisher became plant engineer in 1955 and served as general manager and president beginning in 1983; and

Whereas, in 1988 Citizens Telephone Company became an employee-owned venture that currently employs eighteen people with Howard Fisher serving as chairman of a board of directors comprised of Virginia Gray, Frosty Hoefer, Harri Huscher, and Brian Cornelius; Brian Cornelius serving as president and CEO; Jeff Sappington as vice president and treasurer; and Michelle Alumbaugh as secretary; and

Whereas, today's Citizens Telephone Company uses an advanced fiber network and state-of-the-art digital switching equipment to provide voice, data, and internet services to nearly 4,000 customers in Higginsville, Corder, Mayview, and the surrounding area of central Lafayette County:

Now, therefore, be it resolved that we, the members of the Missouri House of Representatives, Ninety-fourth General Assembly, join unanimously to applaud the history, goals, and accomplishments associated with Citizens Telephone Company and to convey to all of those involved this legislative body's most heartfelt best wishes as they celebrate the Centennial Anniversary of the establishment of their telecommunications organization; and

Be it further resolved that the Chief Clerk of the Missouri House of Representatives be instructed to prepare a properly inscribed copy of this resolution in honor of Citizens Telephone Company of Lafayette County, Missouri.

Offered by _____
Representative Mike McGhee
District No. 122

I, Rod Jetton, Speaker of the House of Representatives, Ninety-fourth General Assembly, Second Regular Session, do certify that the above is a true and correct copy of House Resolution No. 2631, adopted May 6, 2008.

Rod Jetton, Speaker